

Steve Harrison

From: Steve Harrison <stevekris@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2019 6:09 PM
To: Steve Harrison
Subject: Fwd: Small Business Insider: Congress is Back, Will Government Run Health Care?, and Small Business Week 2019

-----Original Message-----

From: SBE Council <info@sbecouncil.org>
To: stevekris <stevekris@aol.com>
Sent: Thu, May 2, 2019 12:22 pm
Subject: Small Business Insider: Congress is Back, Will Government Run Health Care?, and Small Business Week 2019

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Small Business Insider

Business Intelligence, Policy Update and News

National Small Business Week is May 5-11, and SBE Council will take part in a range of activities both in Washington and across the country to celebrate this important event. We will certainly take advantage of this special week to urge Congress [to focus on the issues that matter](#) to small business success and the growth of entrepreneurship.

The economy grew 3.2% in the first quarter of 2019, [and in a media release](#) cheering the results SBE Council president & CEO Karen Kerrigan said that Congress needs to get productive and help entrepreneurs and small businesses with their key challenges in order to sustain and further improve growth.

“Little has been done by the current Congress to address their top challenges. High health coverage costs, access to skilled workers, access to startup and growth capital, and other key issues are addressed through bipartisan bills, but many or most sit idle. The House, especially, has many opportunities to advance bipartisan bills to help small business and the economy, but the Majority lacks focus on these issues...We hope time spent with constituents back home has instilled some energy and renewed purpose, which hopefully translates into productive movement on the important issues when Congress returns to Capitol Hill,” said Kerrigan.

On May 9, Kerrigan will speak at an event hosted by **Politico**:

"UNITED STATES OF ENTREPRENEURS"

Presented by



Entrepreneurship and small businesses have long been considered engines of the American economy. After taking a hit during the Great Recession, business creation has rebounded, especially among women and minorities. But the growth of new businesses, especially startups, is still lagging behind previous generations.

Join POLITICO on Thursday, May 9, for two deep-dive panel conversations to explore policy solutions to the barriers that small business owners and entrepreneurs face. In one conversation, we will talk with entrepreneurs and small business owners about what federal, city and state leaders should do to create innovative solutions that support their growth. In another conversation, we will get insights into what is moving on Capitol Hill and in federal agencies to improve business owners and entrepreneurs' chances of success across the country.

Featured speakers include:

Shelly Bell, Founder, Black Girl Ventures

Marla Blow, CEO and founder, FS Card

Jeff Hargrave, President and CEO, Mahogany Inc.

Karen Kerrigan, President and CEO, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council; Chair, Small Business Roundtable

Alyssa K. Lovegrove, Managing Director, Georgetown University Entrepreneurship Initiative

If you are in DC and would like to register for the event, [please click here.](#)

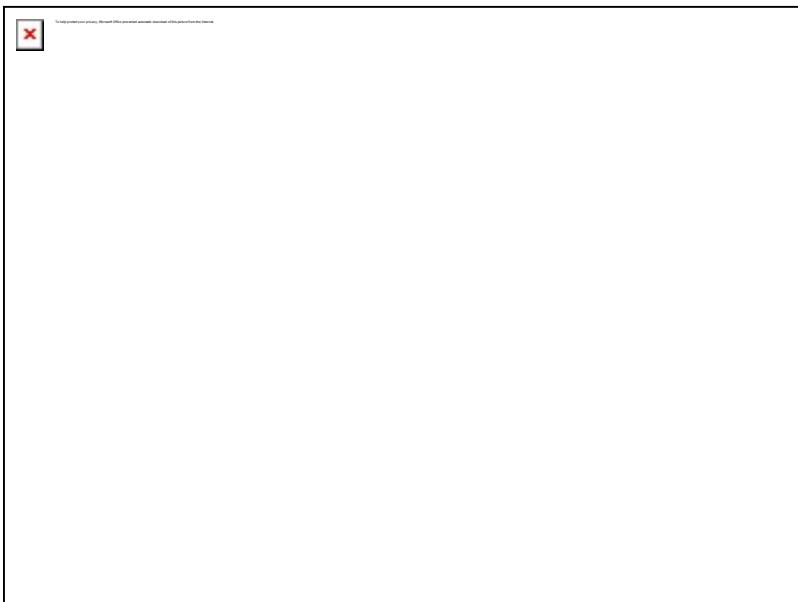
Other events during Small Business Week, specifically those being hosted by the SBA and SCORE, are highlighted in the “Business Intelligence” section below!

Small Business Policy Index 2019

On May 6, SBE Council will release its annual Small Business Policy Index, which ranks the states on policy friendliness. ([See the 2018 Index here.](#)) The state of Nevada was the top policy state in 2018, **and a new state will take the #1 ranking in this year's Index.** The 2019 index is the 23rd annual edition, and includes 62 policy measures (up from 55 last year) including assorted tax, regulatory and government spending measures.

Kerrigan on Fox Business: Social Security, Medicare Funding Concerns and the Need for Reform

On April 22, SBE Council president & CEO Karen Kerrigan [joined guest host David Asman on Cavuto's Coast-to-Coast](#) to discuss the newly released 2019 annual trustee report on Social Security and Medicare and the impact for the economy, small business and entrepreneurship. In discussing policy options for reform, Kerrigan said tax increases cannot be an option given payroll taxes are a big burden for workers and for many small businesses represent their single heaviest tax burden. Watch the clip [here](#).



Health Coverage Issues, Including “Medicare for All”, Take Center Stage

Health coverage costs continue to be a top issue of concern for entrepreneurs and small businesses, but the “reforms” being looked at this week in a House hearing would be ruinous for the economy and our health care system. On April 30, the House Rules Committee held a hearing on the [“Medicare for All Act of 2019,”](#) a step that shows U.S. House Democrats and the bill’s 100 cosponsors are serious about moving legislation. “Medicare for All” would abolish private health coverage for 180 million Americans, add an eye-popping \$32 trillion to federal expenditures, eliminate 11.6 million jobs, and impose massive tax increases on small businesses and American workers. [In a media release](#), SBE Council president & CEO Karen Kerrigan asked, “What’s not there to like?”

Kerrigan observed that “Medicare for All” is an “insane policy approach” that will topple the economy and ration health care. She added that the U.S. does not have to repeat the expensive and failed socialized-medicine experiments of other nations: “We can build upon what is working and encourage the innovative approaches that are emerging. ‘Medicare for All’ is not a serious or humane policy strategy.”

See Kerrigan’s [SMALL BUSINESS INSIDER](#) blog post, [Reality Check: The Delusion and Costs](#)

of Single-Payer Health Care

The Rules Committee is not the committee of jurisdiction, and it looks as though the House Ways and Means Committee will now hold a hearing on the “Medicare for All Act of 2019” [following a request](#) to Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA) by Ranking Member Kevin Brady (R-TX) and the top Republican on the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Devin Nunes (R-CA).

Transitional Health Coverage Options Under Attack – CBO Report Finds 500,000 People Will Go Uninsured Under H.R. 1010

Entrepreneurship is a big risk, and for those who need to jump full-time into business ownership to make it work, it can often mean leaving a job where health insurance is provided. The good news is that there have been federal regulatory changes that are increasing health coverage options and lowering costs, especially when people need the financial flexibility during transition periods.

The bad news is that some in Congress want to roll back these reforms and prevent people from purchasing these affordable coverage options.

A bill has been introduced by House Democrats to repeal [a favorable Department of Labor \(DOL\) rule](#) regarding short-term, limited duration health plans. H.R. 1010, which has been advancing in key committees in the U.S. House, would essentially prevent the DOL from taking “any action to implement, enforce, or otherwise give effect to the rule” and stop the federal government from promulgating a similar rule.

[In a Small Business Insider blog post](#), SBE Council president & CEO Karen Kerrigan said that legislative action to remove affordable health options for America’s self-employed and workers is “just wrong.” She explains that a new CBO report found that 500,000 people would lose coverage and an additional 500,000 would be forced to purchase higher cost coverage if HR 1010 is enacted.

As Kerrigan notes in the piece: “Short-term limited duration plans fill an important need in the marketplace, particularly when individuals and their families need coverage during career and life changes. Many more people are cycling between full-time jobs and ‘gig’ work, and temporary health insurance plans fill the coverage gap at a reasonable cost...Insurance choices, like transitional plans, provide Americans with the flexibility they need when there is a break in coverage, a need for gap coverage, or to pursue their dream of opening a business.”

SBE Council strongly opposes the legislation.

Flashback to SBE Council’s Small Business Policy Expo 2019

At the [2019 Policy Expo](#), emcee Ramon Ray, Founder of Smart Hustle Magazine, interviewed Brian Blase, Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, National Economic Council, about how the Trump Administration is helping small businesses on a number of fronts, including policies being advanced and pursued to help with high health coverage costs. Regarding health reimbursement accounts (HRAs), a final rule will be

forthcoming soon to vastly improve this flexible option for small businesses. **Watch the short interview [here](#).**

World IP Day 2019: Entrepreneurs and Small Businesses Celebrate the Benefits of Protecting IP

April 26 was [World Intellectual Property \(IP\) Day](#), and SBE Council collaborated with organizations and think tanks both in the U.S. and globally to emphasize the importance of strong IP rights to the growth of global entrepreneurship, strong economic growth, and the innovations that improve lives across the world.

SBE Council joined a coalition of 77 organizations from 39 countries and signed [an Open Letter](#) to World International Property Organization (WIPO) Director General Francis Gurry about the importance of IP and thanking him for his work. The letter reviews the central role IP rights play in boosting trade, growing economies, spurring innovation, and fighting counterfeits and piracy.

[In a media release](#) marking the day and its importance, SBE Council president & CEO Karen Kerrigan said:

“IP rights are foundational to bold entrepreneurship and small business growth. Protecting and strengthening IP encourages innovators to do what they do best, and for capital to flow to the businesses and entrepreneurs that will bring these promising innovations and ideas to market. It is incredibly satisfying to see heightened awareness and meaningful action taken in many parts of the world to protect IP. In the end, IP rights spur human ingenuity and positive economic activity and it is essential that innovators and entrepreneurs everywhere are unleashed to produce more of both.”

On the Radio: Kerrigan joined Jim Blasingame's “Small Business Advocate” radio show on April 29, where she discussed the value of intellectual property (IP), the power of including IP protections in trade agreements, and why the update to NAFTA via USMCA is so important to small businesses, entrepreneurial innovation, and our economy. [Listen to the 6-minute segment here.](#)

Small Businesses Win With USMCA, According to USITC Report

On April 18, the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) [released the report](#), “U.S.- Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement: Likely Impact on the U.S. Economy and on Specific Industry Sectors,” which found that the USMCA agreement would increase U.S. GDP by \$68.2 billion and add 176,000 jobs. SBE Council president & CEO Karen Kerrigan [issued the following statement](#) about the report:

“America’s small businesses greatly benefit from trade with Canada and Mexico, and the USITC report shows enhanced value and growth for our economy and all industry sectors under USMCA. The biggest gains noted in the USITC report are for the service sector and

manufacturing, which are dominated by small businesses. The findings clearly demonstrate the value of USMCA to workers, small businesses, entrepreneurs and our economy and is another reason why every member of Congress needs to get behind passage of this important agreement.”

Read [the full USITC report here](#), and a White House [media release here](#) highlighting what business leaders and groups (including SBE Council) are saying about USMCA and the need for Congress to advance the agreement.

On the Radio: On April 29, Kerrigan joined Jim Blasingame’s “Small Business Advocate” radio show to discuss USMCA. [In this 7-minute segment](#) she talks about the many benefits for small businesses, and [in this 6-minute segment](#) she discusses whether partisan politics will derail the important agreement.

Business Intelligence: Tips, Trends and Resources for Entrepreneurs

Small Business Accelerator

[Here's the weekly roundup](#) of helpful content, upcoming events and “how to” tips curated by SBE Council president & CEO Karen Kerrigan that includes solid information on accessing capital, marketing and branding, operational tips as well as some upcoming webinars and events.

National SMALL BUSINESS WEEK 2019 Events



May 5-11 is National Small Business Week. The SBA and SCORE are hosting a FREE two-day Virtual Conference. The conference will take place Tuesday, May 7 – Wednesday, May 8 between 11:00 AM – 5:30 PM ET. Registration is FREE to the public.

All are welcome to attend this live online conference to learn new business strategies, meet other business owners, and chat with industry experts! This 2-day event will include educational webinars, business advice from mentors, giveaways, free resources from sponsor booths, and networking chat rooms for business owners and aspiring

entrepreneurs. Get the information you need to succeed as a small business owner – [for free](#).

The live webinars include:

- The U.S. Economic Outlook and Its Impact on Small Businesses
- Making Sense of Online Marketing: A Simple Checklist for Success
- Mastering Control of Your Cash Flow
- Creating Effective Online Ads
- The Culture Imperative: Drive Growth with Customer Obsession
- SBA Funding Programs Explained
- How to do Business with the Federal Government
- Disasters Happen: How to Prepare Your Business and Recover

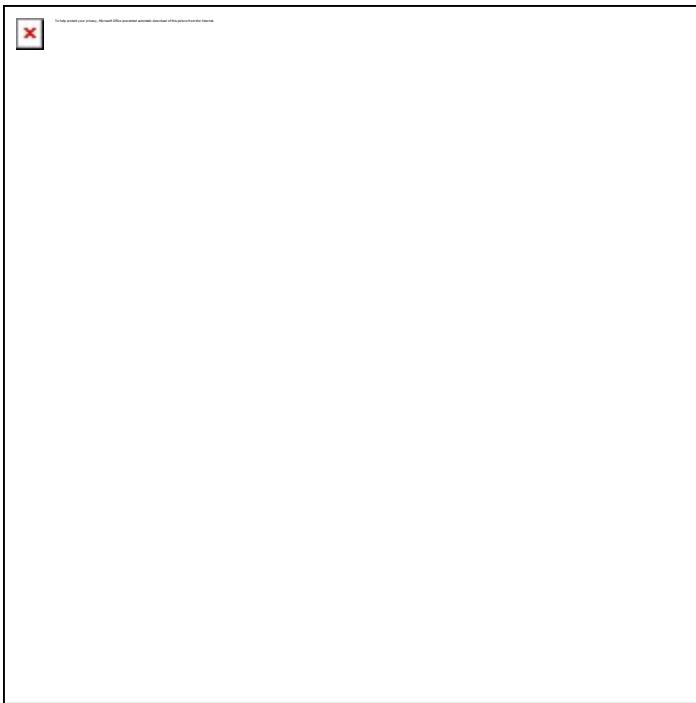
[Learn more here about the specific times, speakers, and content, or to register for the conference.](#)

Opportunity Zones: Resources and What the New Rules Do

As noted in last week's Small Business Insider, SBE Council president & CEO Karen Kerrigan and member Jason Duff, founder of Small Nation, attended an Opportunity Zones conference at the White House on April 17. Following the event, [we posted a SMALL BUSINESS INSIDER blog](#) highlighting the activities of the day as well as key resources for understanding the opportunity in Opportunity Zones. The U.S. Treasury released a second round of rules on that day that will positively impact the infusion of capital into new businesses located in the zones. The blog provides links to resources that will help you understand them.

The Economic Innovation Group (EIG) – a leader in the Opportunity Zone movement – will host a 2:00 p.m. ET webinar on May 8, “What to Know About the Second Round of Opportunity Zones Regulation.” [Learn more here](#).

On the latest **SBE Council-Forbes Books Radio** podcast, SBE Council's Kerrigan and Gregg Stebbens discuss the content covered at the White House conference and provide a general overview of Opportunity Zones and their potential for creating dynamic growth in many parts of the country. [Listen here](#).



Small Business Loan Approvals at Big Banks Hit New High: Do you Qualify?

As noted by Rohit Arora, CEO of Biz2Credit [in this Forbes article](#): “The approval percentage for small business loan applicants hit a record high of 27.3% at big banks (\$10 billion+ in assets) in March, up one-tenth of a percent from February, according to the latest [**Biz2Credit Small Business Lending Index™**](#). Approvals by big banks continue to climb. With strong financials from 2018, many small business owners are seeking capital for growth, and they have proven themselves to be creditworthy borrowers.” However, about three-quarter of loan applications are still rejected. Rohit reviews what banks want, and looks at other sources of capital for small businesses.

SBE Council Joins Allies, Calls on STB to Withdraw Unneeded and Harmful Regulatory Proposal

The railroad industry is important to the growth and success of our economy and small businesses. In fact, the industry itself is all about entrepreneurial firms and small businesses. That is why SBE Council has joined allies [in a letter](#) to Surface Transportation Board (STB) members urging the board “to adhere to its statutory mandate and continue its measured approach to regulation of the railroad industry.”

Specifically, the letter points to a rulemaking on “competitive switching” that has been sitting in the wings for some time, thereby creating uncertainty for the industry. More importantly, the basis of the proposed rule (which would impose forced reciprocal switching, essentially backdoor rate regulation) has not been supported by the economic analyses and no evidence of anticompetitive conduct has been found. Yet, the overhang of this detrimental STB proposed remains.

As expressed in our coalition letter to the STB, the rulemaking must be withdrawn:

"We strongly urge the STB to withdraw the proposed competitive switching rule. The STB should take action to improve its economic analysis in rulemakings in order to avoid similar missteps in the future."

Read more about the proposed rule and the important role small businesses play in the railroad industry [in this blog post](#) by SBE Council president & CEO Karen Kerrigan.

"Corporate Transparency Act" Targets Small Businesses

Legislation requiring burdensome "beneficial ownership" reporting requirements for all of America's small businesses is back on deck. [The current iteration of the legislation](#) (not yet introduced but scheduled to be marked up by the Financial Services Committee on May 8 – yes, during Small Business Week!) would require every business with fewer than 20 employees to register their "beneficial owners" with FinCEN and update that registration if any information changes (home or business address, driver's license change, change in ownership) within 60 days and annually for the life of the business. Failure to do so would result in federal criminal penalties.

Certainly, SBE Council supports the goal of keeping nefarious characters from exploiting the use of corporations or LLCs to wash cash for illicit purposes, but the legislative "solution" is burdensome, duplicative and complex. Failure to comply with these reporting requirements would be a federal crime with civil penalties of up to \$10,000 and criminal penalties of up to 3 years in prison.

The legislation was the discussion of a Capitol Hill briefing hosted by CATO on April 18. The packed room heard from panelists, including SBE Council president & CEO Karen Kerrigan, about how the proposed legislation would place heavy new compliance costs on millions of America's small businesses while continuing to provide opportunities for bad actors to engage in illicit financial activities.

Beneficial ownership reporting would add to an already onerous anti-money-laundering/know-your-customer (AML/ KYC) regulatory burden, cited by community banks as the single most costly financial regulation. Furthermore, international experience with beneficial ownership reporting requirements suggests that it will be difficult to make such requirements work in the United States.

[**Download the video of this event**](#)

[**Download a podcast of this event**](#)

SBE Council will again join small business allies to oppose the misguided and anti-small business legislation.

Members of the SEC Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Named, Upcoming Events for Small Business Week

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) [recently announced](#) the inaugural

members of the Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee. The Committee will hold its first meeting on Monday, May 6, 2019, at the SEC's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The Advisory Committee was established by the [SEC Small Business Advocate Act of 2016](#), and is designed to provide a formal mechanism for the Commission to receive advice and recommendations on Commission rules, regulations and policy matters relating to small businesses, including smaller public companies. The Committee replaces the Advisory Committee on Small and Emerging Companies, whose term expired in 2017. SBE Council members Youngro Lee, Co-Founder & CEO of NextSeed and Sara Hanks, CEO and Co-Founder of CrowdCheck, Inc. are members of the Committee.

The SEC will also host "[Capital Formation Between the Coasts](#)" on May 6, a roundtable discussion between small businesses and venture capital investors on the successes and challenges they have experienced in raising capital and investing outside of the more traditional financing "hot spots." The event is from 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at SEC headquarters and is open to the public and will be webcast. [Click here](#) for additional information.

Entrepreneurship and Success: Does Age Matter?

[In a May 1 blog post](#), SBE Council chief economist Ray Keating takes a look at fascinating findings about the relationship between age and entrepreneurship. Keating concludes, "The nation's economy benefits when entrepreneurship is embraced across the population. At the same time, it's important to understand the process of entrepreneurship, and these findings show that entrepreneurial success is more prevalent among the middle aged."

New Report: 2019 State Small Business Profiles

On April 24, the Office of Advocacy released the annual [2019 State Small Business Profiles](#).

The Small Business Profiles are an annual portrait of each state's small businesses. They gather the latest federal data into state-by-state snapshots of small business health and economic activity. Limited economic data is also provided for the U.S. territories.

This year's profiles report on state economic growth and employment. They also answer the questions:

- How many small businesses are in my state?
- How many jobs do they create?
- Which industries have the most small businesses and small business jobs?
- How many establishments opened and closed?
- How many small businesses export, and how much?
- Which counties have the most small business employment?

There is a file for each of the 50 individual states, plus profiles for the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories.

Population Changes in Big States and Counties Tell the Story About Opportunity (and Government Burdens)

SBE Council chief economist Ray Keating [looks at the latest U.S. Census Bureau county population data](#), and highlights trends in the four largest states (California, Texas, Florida and New York). Keating notes, “These recent trends in population are powerful indictments of state and local officials who think that they can keep piling on individuals, families, entrepreneurs and businesses with more and more governmental burdens without consequences.”

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